



# PRESS RELEASE

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## MARIA F. BALITA RECOGNIZED MOST INFLUENTIAL FILIPINA WOMAN IN THE WORLD

*Gala Awards Ceremony at 16<sup>th</sup> Filipina Leadership Global Summit 28 October-02 November 2019 in Paris, France*

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, October 28, 2019: Maria F. Balita, Partner, Adelfia LLC and Chair of National Executive Board of the International Society of Filipinos in Finance & Accounting, to receive the prestigious Most Influential Filipina Woman in the World Award from the Filipina Women's Network.

The Filipina Women's Network recognizes women of Philippine ancestry who are changing the face of leadership in the global workplace, having reached status for outstanding work in their respective fields and are recognized for their contributions to society, femtorship and legacy. Ms. Balita was selected from an outstanding field of nominees from around the world, and she is recognized in the Builder Category:

*Builders* have demonstrated exceptional organizational impact at a large workplace environment; displaying deep passion for a cause through collaborative initiatives or alliances with institutions, corporations or nonprofit organizations on behalf of her own company. Builders demonstrate high potential and skill with measurable results at a government agency, higher education institution, nonprofit or a corporation in the public and private sectors. "Buildership" is about developing better organizations, leading broken organizations to adjust, repair, and re-align including journalistic views redefining traditional methods.

The FWN100™ Award was launched in the United States in 2006 and expanded its search globally in 2013. Many of the awardees have reached the pinnacle of their careers breaking the "glass ceiling" at the C-Suite level and in politics – California Chief Justice Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye, HealthNet CEO and now Sterling CEO Cora Manase Tellez, Charles Schwab Investments CEO and now Commonwealth Club Board Chair Evelyn Dilsaver, Philippines Vice President Leni Robredo, first Filipina deputy mayor of Hertsmere, UK Cynthia Barker, entrepreneur and Richprime Global President and CEO Myrna Yao, Cebu Governor and former Philippines House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Gwen Garcia, Utah Valley University President Astrid S. Tuminez, Legato Health Technologies Philippines Inc., An Anthem Company, Country Head and former Undersecretary of Philippines Department of Trade and Industry Nora Terrado, four Rear Admirals in the U. S. Navy: Connie Mariano, Raquel Cruz Bono, Eleanor Valentin and Babette Bolivar. Not everyone is in the C-Suite level – there are influential emerging leaders and community advocates who have been recognized for their accomplishments.

"The Global FWN100™ awardees are innovators and thought leaders, dynamic entrepreneurs, rising stars under age 35, practitioners, behind-the-scenes leaders, and public service advocates, who have moved through the ranks in the public and private sectors. They are magnificent women doing extraordinary work motivating next generation leaders," said Marily Mondejar, CEO of the Filipina Women's Network.

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“Each nominee goes through a rigorous vetting process by the Selection Committee composed of previous global awardees,” explained Thelma Boac, chair of the Global FWN100™ Awards and elected Trustee of the San Jose, California Berryessa Union School District. “They were selected based on the size and scope of their positions, influence in their industries and their communities, board affiliations and other leadership roles.”

The Global FWN100™ Award™ is a working recognition award with a meaningful purpose: *A Filipina woman leader in every sector of the global economy*. The awardees are asked to re-invent themselves by femtoring (female mentoring) Filipina women and bring her to the Filipina Summit in The Westin Paris – Vendôme, France.

“Maria F. Balita is now a valued partner in helping FWN develop the Filipina community's pipeline of qualified leaders to increase the odds that some will rise to the "president" position in all sectors of the global economy," added Dr. Carol Enriquez, FWN board member and President and CEO of Our Lady of Fatima University. "The summit is where smart women are sharing the secrets to their success and inspire each other. The 2007-2019 awardees' leadership stories have become part of the largest recorded Filipina women diaspora in modern times."

“The #FWNSummit2019 theme is Be. Magnificent. AMPLIFYING Filipina Women Voices. Seeing all the global awardees on stage at the awards ceremony assures me that the future of our young Filipina sisters is solid,” said Georgitta Puyat, Chairman, Philippine Orchard Corporation and FWN president. “Awardees often share this inspiring evening with their moms, grandmothers, daughters, sons, spouses, partners, young women and men, mentors and bosses from their organizations. They all come on stage to celebrate her.”

“I am excited to meet my fellow awardees from other countries, learning more about their lives, the partnerships and collaborations we can create. I thank FWN for bringing the Filipina women of the world together to plan the future for our community and next generation leaders.” says Maria F. Balita.

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#### **About Adelfia LLC**

Adelfia is a Filipino and women-owned certified public accounting firm based in Chicago, Illinois. Formed in November 2011, Adelfia currently has 7 partners, all Filipino and all-women. The firm has about 40 employees. The firm provides audit services, tax, accounting, consulting, IT audits, internal audit, benefit plan audit, across industries including State and local government, higher education, gaming, not for profit, small and large companies.

#### **About Filipina Women's Network (FWN)**

The Filipina Women's Network (FWN) is a San Francisco based 501 (c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan international advocacy organization that seeks to increase the power and influence of Filipina women as leaders and policy makers on economic and social justice and women's rights in the private and public sectors. With members in 31 countries, FWN provides: INFLUENCE. KNOWLEDGE. ACCESS. to support the success of Filipina women in their businesses and careers. More info: <http://FilipinaWomensNetwork.org>.

#### **About the Filipina Leadership Global Summit**

The annual Filipina Leadership Global Summit brings together the top and most influential Filipina women business owners and professionals from around the globe to create a networking pipeline thru reciprocal relationships. The speakers chosen for the summit are at the top of their game sharing their experiences and insights on how they became successful, how they turned their success into significance and what it means to be relevant to society as an influential Filipina woman in today's business world. The summit raises funds for FWN's programs to raise awareness of FWN's pipeline development of qualified next generation leaders to increase the odds that more Filipina women will rise to the "C-suite" position so Filipina women can be part of decisions and policies made that impact the lives of our families.

More info: <http://www.filipinasummit.org>

#### **About the Global FWN100™ Awards**

The 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World Award™ recognizes Filipina women who are influencing the face of leadership in the global workplace, having reached status for outstanding work in their respective fields and are recognized for their leadership, achievement and contributions to society, femtorship and legacy. The awardees are asked to give back to the Filipina women community by femtoring a young Filipina through the FEMtorMatch initiative and bring her to the Filipina Summit. More info: <http://www.filipinawomensnetwork.org/fwn100/>